

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

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FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9529

INFO AMEMBASSY BERN

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMCONSUL LUANDA

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

C O N F I D E N T I A L KINSHASA 8238

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINS, AO, CG, PO, US

SUBJ: CABINDA POLICY

REF: (A) LUANDA 0819, (B) STATE 208586, (C) KINSHASA 8101,
(D) KINSHASA 8237.

1. GREATLY APPRECIATE KILLORAN'S THOUGHTFUL AND THOUGHT-PROVOKING
CABLE ON CABINDA. IT SHOWS SECRETARY'S WISDOM IN ASSIGNING CENTRAL
AMERICAN DUDES TO AFRICA.

2. NEVERTHELESS, IT APPEARS TO US THAT THERE ARE TOO MANY
UNCERTAINTIES IN PRESENT SITUATION TO PERMIT WHAT MIGHT WELL BE
PREMATURE DEPARTURE FROM PRUDENT POLICY DESCRIBED PARA 4 REF B.
WHETHER US INTERESTS BETTER SERVED BY INDEPENDENT OR INTEGRATED
CABINDA WOULD DEPEND, INTER ALIA, ON ATTITUDE OF OAU AFRICA. WHILE
IT IS CLEAR MOBUTU IS ATTRACTED BY IDEA OF SEPARATE STATUS FOR
CABINDA, IT REMAINS TO BE SEEN HOW FAR HE IS PREPARED TO GO. THAT HE
SEES PITFALLS IS EVIDENT FROM THE NOTICIA INTERVIEW CITED BY
CONGEN LUANDA (PARA 5 REF A) IN WHICH MOBUTU SPOKE OF ZAIRE'S
DEPENDENCE ON THE BENGUELA RAILWAY, ITS LONG COMMON BORDER WITH
ANGOLA, AND ITS CONSEQUENT NEED FOR FRATERNAL RELATIONS WITH AN
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INDEPENDENT ANGOLA. ALSO, IN HIS SPEECH HERE ON SEP 22 (REF C)

MOBUTU ASSERTED THAT ZAIRE DID NOT COVET CABINDA'S OIL AND WOULD NOT INDULGE IN COLONIALISM. WHILE WE TAKE THAT WITH GRAIN OF SALT AS WE DID ALSO FORMIN UMBA'S CAUTIOUS COMMENT (REF D) WE ARE UNPERSUADED THAT NOW IS TIME TO DECIDE.

3. SOME TIME MAY ELAPSE BEFORE OAU SENTIMENT ON QUESTION OF CABINDAN SEPARATISM CRYSTALLIZES. ONCE IT DOES AND ONCE WE HAVE BETTER READING FROM REVOLUTIONARIES AND MANY OTHER ACTORS, USG WILL BE IN BETTER POSITION TO ASSESS PROS AND CONS OF VARIOUS POSSIBLE INITIATIVES.

4. IN MEANTIME, SHOULDN'T WE HAVE FULLY STUDY (AT LEAST INR, MAYBE NSC) OF FACTS INCLUDING LEGAL STUDY AND POSSIBLE PRECEDENTS; ATTITUDES OF PLAYERS - NOT NEGLECTING CONGO (B), AND US OPTIOONS?

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